

JANUARY 2014

## MRI area rolls out new safety rules

If your child has had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, you know that the MRI machine takes pictures of the inside of your child's body using a large magnet, radio waves and computers. The MRI magnet is very strong and will attract metal objects, causing them to become hot or move quickly toward the scanner. Having metal on your clothes, shoes or even in your body, could be dangerous for anyone in the room. For this reason, safety rules must be strictly followed in the MRI area.

To provide the safest care for your child and all St. Jude patients, the staff keeps up with all current safety regulations. Recent updates to these rules have changed some of the safety precautions used in the St. Jude MRI area.

Until recently, parents were able to follow their children into the area next to the MRI scan room, called the

induction room, without being asked to fill out a form about any metal that might be in their body or on their clothing. Previously, the staff only asked parents to complete this screening process if they planned to go into the MRI scan room with their child.

Because of new regulations, the area before you enter the MRI scan room is now restricted. The staff calls this area Zone III; it includes the induction rooms.

The new rules involve two major changes:

- 1) Only **one** caregiver may go with the patient to the MRI area. Other caregivers and siblings must remain in the waiting room. This may require changes to travel plans so that another caregiver can watch siblings.
- 2) Patients and caregivers must remain in what the staff calls Zone II until they have **both** completed the MRI screening process. This area was previously used for screening

interviews and IV starts for patients. Caregivers will now also need to be screened in this area before moving to Zone III *whether or not they plan to go into the MRI scan room with the patient.*

The screening process is similar for caregivers and patients. A form is completed detailing surgical history and any metal that may be present in the body. Clothing must be free of metal, or the clothing must be removed and stored in a locker (this includes bras with underwire or metal clasps, certain shoes, or jewelry). Personal belongings like mobile phones must be stored and can't enter Zone III.

Caregivers with certain medical implants such as pacemakers, defibrillators, insulin pumps or any other metal in their bodies might not pass the screening. Anyone who does not pass the screening can't proceed

**continued on back**

## Safeguard your personal possessions and find lost items

Sometimes you might lose personal items in the hospital. It is easy to put something down and forget about it, especially when you are caring for your child. The St. Jude staff wants to help you keep track of your personal possessions and will work with you to recover lost items.

### Mark your personal items

Before bringing any personal items to the hospital, please remember to mark them with your name and phone number or the patient's full name, so we will be able to reach you if one of your items is found. Use a Sharpie® pen or write the information on a piece of tape and place it on the item.

It is important for all St. Jude patient families to keep their personal belongings secure. Consider leaving valuables and important paperwork in your St. Jude housing room. The Memphis Grizzlies House offers a small safe in every room. When staying in Target House or Ronald McDonald

House, your possessions will be safe and secure as long as you keep your front door locked.

Do not leave valuables—laptops, purses, luggage, etc.—unattended in common areas of the hospital or housing facilities.

### Report lost items

If you do leave a personal item somewhere in the hospital, you need to report it missing as soon as you realize it is gone. Call Security at 901-595-4444, or from a hospital phone, dial extension 4444. The Security officer will be able to tell you what your next step is for locating your lost item.

### Lost and found

The Lost-and-Found Center at St. Jude is located in Patient Services on the Plaza Level of the Patient Care Center (PCC). When an item is found in the hospital, a staff member will take it to Patient Services.

Items will be kept for two weeks, and if unclaimed after that time, they will be discarded. Sometimes the value or type of item will determine where it is stored:

- Items with an estimated value of

\$100 or less, including cash, will be kept in Patient Services.

- Items with an estimated value of \$100 or more, including cash, are kept in Security.
- Medical equipment (wheelchairs, IV pumps, etc.) regardless of value will be kept in Patient Services or returned to the correct clinical department. Check with Patient Services to find out about any missing medical equipment.
- Keys found will be given to the security officer at the Guest Services desk in the PCC lobby. The officer will have the keys for 24 hours, after which time the keys will be given to Patient Services.

In October, 27 items were turned in to Lost and Found, and 10 items were matched to their owners. In November, 42 items were turned in to Lost and Found, and nine were matched to their owners.

The staff wants to help you recover your lost personal possessions, so please report any missing items as soon as you discover they are gone. Each housing facility also has its own lost-and-found service.





## Talking about Medicines

### Traveling safely with medicines

By Shane Cross, PharmD, Pharmaceutical Services

At St. Jude, we see many patients from all over the country and around the world. As a result, some of our families will travel back and forth many times during the course of their children's treatment. Here are a few tips for traveling safely with medicines:

- If traveling by car, do not store medicines in the glove compartment or the trunk of your car. Medicines are sensitive to temperature extremes, and these areas can become very hot and humid.
- Keep medicines with you in a carry-on bag when traveling by train, plane or bus. Your child may need a dose during travel. Plus, if your luggage gets lost, you could be without it for several days.
- If traveling by plane, it is recommended that medicines be kept in clear plastic bags inside your carry-on bag.
- Be sure to alert the airport security officers if you are traveling with any liquid medications that contain more than 3 ounces. You may be asked to sign a declaration for medicines in larger volumes.
- It may be helpful to keep a complete list of your child's medicines. Include the names, doses and schedules of each and always keep the medicines stored in their original containers.
- Take plenty of your child's medicines home with you in case your stay away from St. Jude is longer than expected.

Of course, all of the above applies to your medicines as well. If you have more questions about traveling with medicines, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

### MRI area rolls out new safety rules ..... continued from front

to Zone III. If this happens, the MRI and Child Life staff will stay with the patient until the exam is underway.

Some ways to prepare for an MRI:

- Dress yourself and your child in clothes with no metal, such as soft shoes and a sports bra.
- Do not wear jewelry and remove body jewelry if you can.
- Bring any documents you have about body implants (such as implant cards, surgical records) for the caregiver and patient.
- Be prepared to store your belongings in the lockers outside of Zone III. Wagons and strollers will not fit in the lockers, and they are not allowed into Zone III.

- Plan carefully for only one caregiver to go with the patient to MRI. Ensure that the caregiver can sign the consent and, if possible, does not have any implants or devices that would make it unlikely for that person to pass the screening.

These new rules promote the safest environment for our patients and families.

If you have questions or concerns about these new safety rules for the MRI scan area, please talk to your child's doctor, nurse, MRI technologist or radiation therapist.

*St. Jude Parents* is published on the first of each month by Patient Education and Biomedical Communications. Your questions and comments are important to us. **We want to print advice and tips from St. Jude parents to other St. Jude parents.**

To share your ideas or to receive this newsletter by email, please call or email Alicia Huettel, RN, MSN, at 901-595-5453 ([parents\\_newsletter@stjude.org](mailto:parents_newsletter@stjude.org)) or Lois Young ([lois.young@stjude.org](mailto:lois.young@stjude.org)). To subscribe to an online version of this newsletter, visit [www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter](http://www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter).

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